

The three Burnley lock ups

For such a small town (with a population of little more than 70,000 people today) it is surprising that Burnley required not just one town lock up but three.

The main lock up, situated in the old town police station, was converted from a former Methodist Church situated off Nairne Street and contained just three cells. It was here that the dangerous child murderer Joseph Wren was held before he was brought to trial. The second was opened in 1819 behind the famous Swan Inn, a large and popular pub that opened late in the 1700s and once housed a town committee (the forerunner of the Burnley Town Council) which met there up until 1844.

Like the lock up in Nairne Street, this one housed very few cells but was built to replace the third Burnley Lock Up, located further out of the town in Nelson.